

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (canceled in favor of new claim 21)
2. (canceled)
3. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 2 21, wherein radially adjoining edges of ~~radially adjacent~~ said first and second components are profiled so as to prevent relative movement of the components in at least one axial direction.
4. (canceled)
5. (canceled)
6. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim [4] 21, wherein the first component is substantially rigid and the second component comprises said flexible portion.
7. (canceled)
8. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 6, comprising a third, substantially rigid component located outwardly of the second component and to be secured to the installation.
9. (canceled)
10. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein apertures for receiving bolts are provided in the third component, whereby the third component can be bolted to the installation.

11. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein the first and third components have respective portions which overlap when viewed in the axial direction.
12. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the first and third components have respective portions which overlap when viewed in the axial direction.
13. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein apertures for receiving bolts are provided in the second component, whereby the second component can be bolted to the installation.
14. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein a substantially rigid insert is provided in each of the apertures.
15. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim ~~2~~ 21, wherein ~~at least two of the said first and second~~ components have axially facing surfaces which are axially offset from each other.
16. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim ~~±~~ 21, wherein the flexible portion is adapted to electrically isolate the connector part from the installation in use.
17. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the flexible portion is adapted to electrically isolate the connector part from the installation in use.
18. (canceled in favor of new claim 22)
19. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim ~~±~~ 21, in combination with the connector part.

20. (currently amended) A connector for use in an underwater or severe environment, comprising a first connector part adapted to be mounted to an installation, and a second connector part adapted to be mated with the first connector part to establish a connection, in combination with mounting apparatus as claimed in claim ‡ 21 for mounting the first connector part to the installation.

21. (new) An apparatus for mounting a connector part of a subsea connector to a subsea installation in a subsea environment, the apparatus comprising:

a first component having an opening located at a radially inner region thereof, and a body extending in a circumferential direction about the opening, the opening being adapted to receive the connector part and to be secured thereto;

a second component surrounding and extending radially outwardly from said first component to a radially outer region adapted to be secured to the installation; and

a circumferential flexible portion intermediate said radially inner region and said radially outer region,

wherein one of the first or second components comprises the flexible portion and the other of the first or second components is substantially rigid, said flexible portion defining an aperture which receives a radial extension of said rigid component, said flexible portion allowing relative movement between said radially inner and radially outer regions.

22. (new) An apparatus for mounting a connector part of a subsea connector to a subsea installation in a subsea environment, the apparatus comprising:

a first component having an opening located at a radially inner region thereof, and a body extending in a circumferential direction about the opening; and

a second component located adjacent to and radially outwardly of the first component, the second component having an opening for receiving the first component, and a body extending in a circumferential direction about the opening,

wherein the apparatus is adapted to be secured to the installation at a radially outer region thereof and to be secured to the connector part at a radially inner region of the first component, one of the first or second components comprising an electrically insulating component extending in the circumferential direction and interposed radially between the inner and outer regions of the apparatus so as to electrically isolate the connector part from the installation.

23. (new) An apparatus for mounting a connector part of a subsea connector to a subsea installation, said apparatus comprising:

a first annular component having a radially extending body defining a central aperture including features for receiving and securing the connector part; and

a second annular component having a radially extending body surrounding said first annular component and defining features for fixing said apparatus to the installation,

wherein one of said first or second annular components includes a flexible portion defining a slot which receives a radial extension of the other of said first or second components, said flexible portion allowing relative movement between the connector part and the installation in use.

24. (new) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said flexible portion is a polymer.

25. (new) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said flexible portion is an elastomer.

26. (new) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said flexible portion is a polymer molded onto the substantially rigid component.

27. (new) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said flexible portion is an annular polymer component molded separately from the substantially rigid component.

28. (new) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said flexible portion is bonded to the substantially rigid portion.